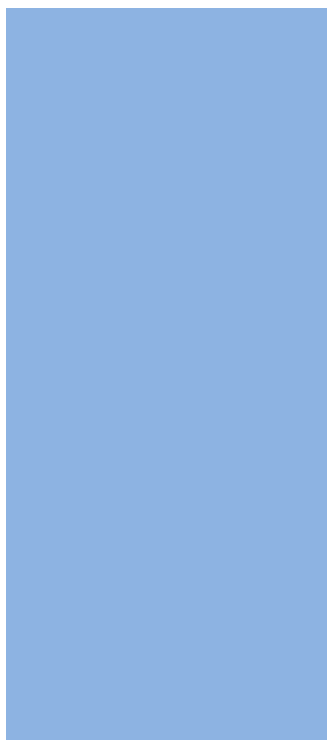


**Marriage**

# **Fail, Survive or Thrive**

**it is your choice**

Cassandra Beattie and Dr. David Beattie



# **Fail, Survive or Thrive**

By Cassandra Beattie and Dr. David Beattie

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## Forward

One of our friends recently got married and on visiting him started me thinking why we are so very happily married? What had we as a couple done right? So I started writing a few notes which kept expanding which became a booklet then after a few days asked my wife to co-write it so we would have a balanced view, by this time she had already written her first couple of pages of thoughts.

I once heard a minister say he would not marry anyone until they had first gone through marriage counselling; I thought this was tough and intrusive but in hindsight marriage is so different from being single, few people are prepared for the change and this is reflected in the divorce rates.

I now realise the minister just wanted the best for the couples because being married and being engaged has little to do with the wedding day. It is so easy while engaged for a couple to be side tracked and put all their effort into planning the wedding but not the marriage. Planning for a marriage has everything to do with the changes you have to make to accommodate the other person in your life.

The reality of life is sometimes hard to accept, having been responsible in part for a failed and also very happy marriage I do not want to go through another failure and I want my friends to have a successful marriage as well, while I will keep working to ensure my marriage thrives.

*As a couple we hope with a positive expectation that this workbook will help your ensure your marriage thrives.*

David & Cassandra Beattie

A great marriage is not when the perfect couple come together



It is when an imperfect couple fix the problems

## What is love?

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

*"So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17*

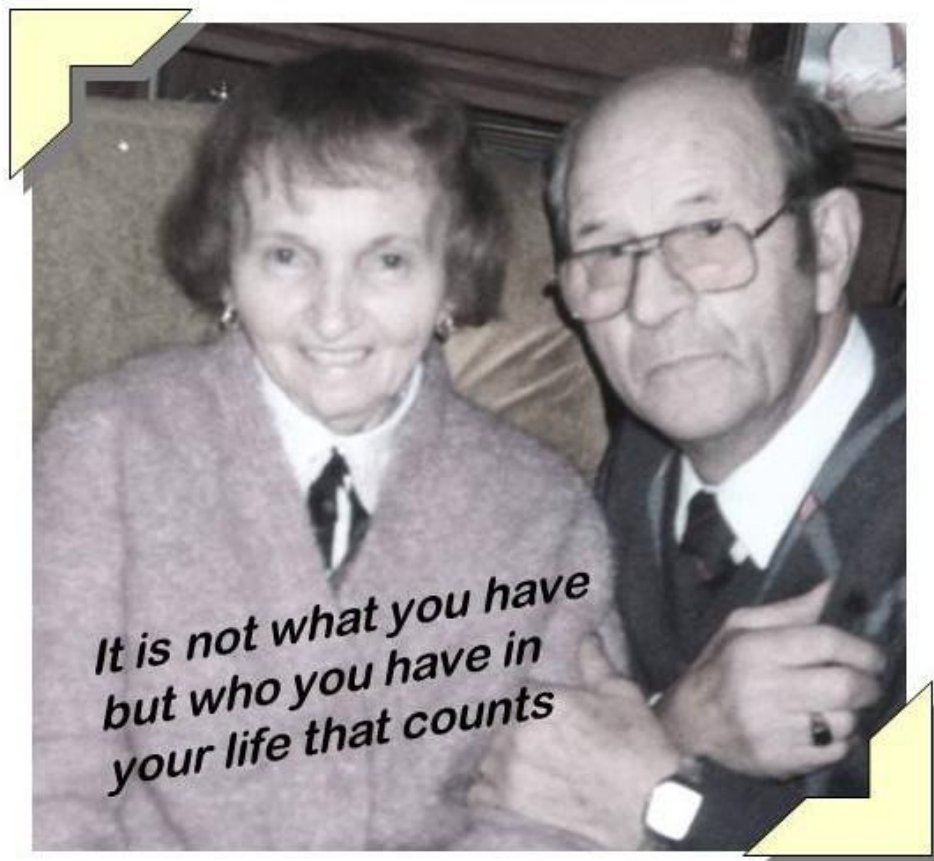
Love may start off as a feeling but regardless how wonderful or sad feelings are they do not last forever. So while married love may have started as a feeling it changes into series of decisions to love the other person and the actions we take.

In the same way love with works will die and the relationship will not last very long. The similarity is the same – we do not do works to prove our faith, works are an expression of our faith. In marriage we do not do works to prove our love, works are an expression of our love and an extension of this is if you do have to do works to prove your love, your love dies as instead of a spouse you become a slave.

Feelings are like a compass they give us direction and sometimes we can use them as guide however you never follow a compass.

Showing love is easy when you are in the mood or you feel like it, commitment requires you to love when you don't feel like and you choose to love the other person, to give and serve them as this is the commitment you have made. It is putting the other person first instead of you.

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25*



## Why people get married?

Often along this magical journey that is love, we get focused on the immediate things and forget that there is a future. Marriage, in particular is prone to this, we spend so much time and energy planning the dream wedding but the practicalities of how you're going to make this thing called life work after that event. Often having children is the same, the plan is to make it through the first year and the rest is never discussed and there is no opportunity to hear what your partner thinks.

If you don't have a plan, you are likely to stumble along and while this is fine and works for a bit eventually the differences and the lack of communication lead to misunderstanding or a disparity in goals. This can lead to mixed purposes and arguments over things that could have been avoided. For example if you and your partner work, one of you is working towards a holiday and the other is working towards a new car, when it comes time to spend the money, someone will be disappointed. One of you will have hurt feelings and feel that you have been working for nothing, if you have been working towards a common goal, there is a reward at the end and everyone has agreed. While there may be wrong or right reasons for getting married doing and saying the right things will build our marriage while doing and saying the wrong things ends a marriage.

***Please complete the Quiz A: Why did we get married before you continue reading.***

According to the Relationships Indicators Survey conducted by Relationships Australia and CUA in 2008, the reasons why people get married are:

Factor	Response %
Love	91
Companionship	88
To signify a life-long commitment	82
Security for children	79
To make a public commitment to each other	77
For legal status or for financial security	66
Because of religious beliefs	62
Response to Family pressure	50
Desire for a special occasion	45

### **Love**

You believe you have found the one who makes you feel alive and happy your true love and you want to spend the rest of your lives together.

### **Companionship**

For some being single is their ideal situation but most people feel they want someone else to share their happiness and at times sadness with. While friendships can be an important part of your life, there is no human companionship as close as that of a husband and wife and marriage was created for that purpose.

When you are young growing old with someone may not make sense however the pleasure of spending time with a special someone that you can take care of really understand you and your principles and vice versa makes you feel satisfied in life and gives more meaning to your life's purpose.

## **Legal Status of Financial Security**

To gain citizenship or financial security can be the basis of the start of a relationship, the daily decision to love the other person changes the relationship from a transaction to a relationship, which can be as strong and in many cases stronger than those founded on love or attraction.

## **Life long commitment**

Asking your love for their hand in marriage can be seen as one of the highest commitments you can make to prove your love for them.

## **Security for children**

Even with current divorce rates, research shows that marriage is one of the most secure relationships in which to raise children

## **Religious Beliefs**

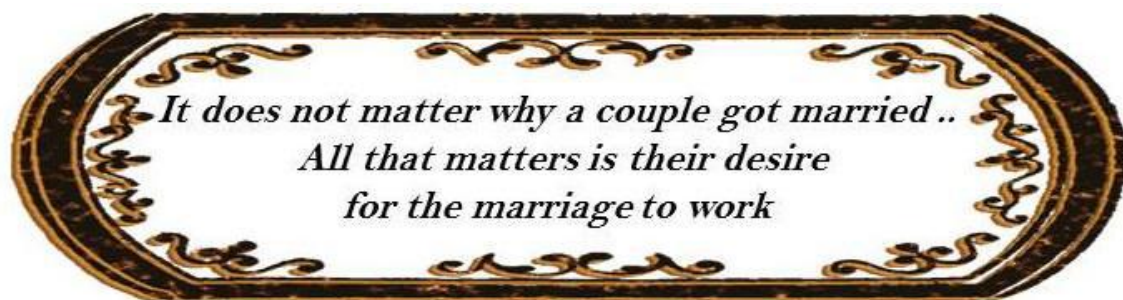
In marriage Christians recognize and proclaim God plan to bless mankind and make an agreement in the name of the Lord promising a commitment to lifelong fidelity and working through the challenges, the joys and hardships of life together.

## **Family Pressure**

Families can put pressure to marry based on their own positive reasons like you have had a good single life and it is time to get married, Marriage is the next stage of life and the Marriage tradition that's stood the test of time. Their reasons could also be selfish it is about time you moved out of the home, they always dreamt of your wedding day or they would like grandchildren.

## **Desire for a Special Occasion**

Unfortunately some people grow up with dream of their special day and their price charming or beautiful bride that magical special day after which they have to count the cost of the day and the cost of their new relationship.



## **You become what you believe!**

*Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. Proverbs 4:23*

If you believe that you are going to be a good person, you actively work towards being a good person, you learn, you look, you listen and you try harder.

If you believe you will be an awesome partner, you learn through understanding, you seek positive modern role models and you try every day to make your partner happy. This goes far

beyond physical or financial but to the very heart of your love. If you truly love someone you want them to be happy, to be proud to be a part of your life.

If you believe you can't cook, you won't even try, perhaps it is a fear of failure but it is far more dangerous not to try than to try and fail. It is a bit like saying "I don't like cleaning, so I am going to live in a pig pen" or "I don't like change so I am going to stay in my protected world forever, never learning or growing as a person. All of these things erode your self-worth; if you have no achievements what are you proud of?

How do you judge your self-worth? Is it how beautiful you are? How much you earn? It is how you make others feel? Did you meet your targets at work? Or did you go to church? Did you help someone or did you introduce a friend to great coffee? Did you share your meal with someone in need or did you keep walking?

As humans and as Christians we have plenty of people who judge us, they often don't know us well, they may have never talked to us but they judge us. Their minds are closed off to the new and exciting things that life offers but then who are we to judge, we don't know them either, we have no knowledge of their journey, we do however have the will to actively say to ourselves that they are welcome to be who they are and if they are my friend, I am fine with that. They have their own life to live.

If we believe that we are better than them, we have lost our way, we may be different, they may follow a different faith or have no faith at all, it is their choice, but if we believe we can be a better friend/parent/partner to them, if we believe we can achieve.

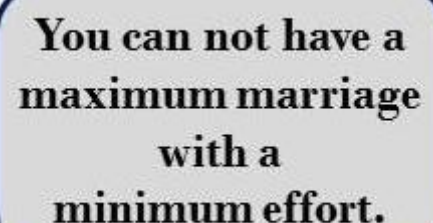
Honouring your partner is about so much more than providing a house, a house is just walls and fittings, it is about making a home together, it is about mutual respect. Love is about 2% physical, the other 98% is made up of a million other little things, it is a coffee and a chat, it's a load of washing, its taking out the rubbish without being asked, or picking up some groceries during a busy week, its these little acts of love that makes you partner feel loved and appreciated. It's thinking about your partner before you act, are you making your partner feel loved and appreciate or like your slave? Do you think about how they might feel when you leave a mess in the kitchen or forget to buy bread on the way home? Have you gone that little extra bit to make sure your partner feels loved and honoured? Do you make fun of their choices or make mock the things they hold close to their heart? These might be tough questions but they are important to ask!

## **Marriage comes with a cost**

*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Luke 14:28*

*Bear one another's burdens. Galatians 6:2*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:7*



**You can not have a  
maximum marriage  
with a  
minimum effort.**

If you think marriage will not cost you anything you are a fool. When you marry someone you make a commitment to put their needs ahead of you this means they automatically become more important than your toys, games, friends, family and things and you also become responsible for supporting their success and visa versa.



In marriage a couple become one, not in co-dependent way but still one where what was mine becomes ours, one spouse, one bank account, one budget, one home, one bed, one bathroom. We have to stop learning to share and actually share, we need to let go of what is mine and yours as it becomes ours.

If your desire for your spouses is for them to be the best spouse and achieve their dreams it also requires you to be your best – Marriage is not a place for lazy people

If you decide to have children they slot in after your spouse and before everything else and add a whole level of responsibility and complexity to the marriage.

On the flip side a happy marriage will bless you and give you more satisfaction and opportunity to reach your potential. The more closely your Christian walk the more care you will need to reflect on person you marry and the more patient and dedicated you will be required to be to ensure the success of your marriage.



In the marriage ceremony when they say for better or worse, some of the worse arrives in the form of past that your spouse and you bring to the relationship it could include family, friends, past relationships, habits, debt and emotional scars.

We all have a past, some longer than others, today with second and third marriages, it is even more common to have ex's and children to prior relationships, if your spouse is telling you about something from our past, is it their choice and for a reason, don't mock, ignore or judge, and before you do judge take a long look in the mirror.

Past relationships can bring a load of past into a new marriage and range from unforgiven hurts to actual and emotional scars. While you will not need to know every fine detail of your spouse's past knowing that spouse has emotional scars which may also affect the way you hold or touch them is important, from someone who has been in an abusive relationship it takes a long time to learn to trust again, sometime we need you to understand, so you don't accidentally open an old emotional scar.

These scars can be deep and may include or be similar to posttraumatic stress create panic attacks in which case you need to find out the triggers and when they occur, it may just be holding them tight or just a gently stroking their hair or back till they calm down. This is also an area where trust is incredibly important when you need to understand the causes of your spouse's fears and if possible protect them from reoccurrences.

Other past can include your spouses children from a previous relationship if they do not accept the new spouse or the spouse as a new leader within the family and compounded if

they live with you and complications caused by family and friends when they think you have made a wrong choice of spouse or for some reason real or imaginary dislike your spouse

People often see a happy marriage as their final dream or goal. Marriage can create a safe environment where the couple can grow and move towards their calling. Your purpose and passions can extend far beyond the reach of your relationship with your spouse. Marriage is not the end, it's only the beginning. God's got so much more up His sleeve. The bible uses marriage as an analogy of Christ's love for His church, because no other early relationship compares to the intimacy within marriage. God uses marriage as another tool to shape and refine us to become what he desires of us to be.

## **What couples need for their marriage to thrive**

Regardless of all the books written and all the internet topics a successful marriage comes down to four cornerstones. Cornerstone is an old word for the stone set in the foundation on the corner of a building, if the four cornerstones are in alignment and the walls built in alignment with the cornerstones a solid building can be constructed. The cornerstones are Trust, Respect, Spirituality and Intimacy with these four things in place a solid marriage can be built.

### **Complete Trust with each other**

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, Proverbs 18:21*

*Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:9-10*

*Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4*

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18*



Trust in marriage can only mean complete trust it means your spouse will never have to worry about you being unfaithful, it means no matter what secrets you share they remain secrets, what ever fears or doubts you have or what happens in the world your spouse will always support you and both of you will make your best endeavours for the marriage to thrive.

Trust means you can talk about work, your emotions, your strengths, your weaknesses in an environment where you are not judged but supported it is a two way street. It allows you to be serious, to be frivolous to be your own crazy self.

Trust means you have the passwords to each others phones, tablets and any online accounts not because you want to snoop or you use them just because you have them. Trust means you have find my friend on your phone so your spouse can look up or with a iPhone ask Siri where you are, for me it means dinner is delayed until after I leave a meeting and am driving home

for my spouse I can see when my spouse is walking home from work and make a fresh pot of coffee.

Complete trust creates security within the relationship, you know your spouse will never cheat on you, you know the relationship is being built for the long term, you can feel safe that your spouse can be out with friends or at work event and you have no need to check up on them.

Complete trust is built in two building blocks 100% honesty and faithfulness. 100% Honesty means when you share your opinions, beliefs, ideas, and feelings and with your partner you tell them the truth knowing they may not always agree but will not judge you on them. Speaking the difficult truths takes courage

Complete honesty can be very hard and can only be achieved with complete trust. It requires you not to have yourself or her on pedestal. The ability to honestly share how you feel about work, life everything with someone else at first can be scary, but after you feel the trust it becomes liberating.

Complete honesty does not prevent you from being relationship astute or give a partner the right to interrogate you in fine detail. When discussing past relationships if discussing give situational overviews not intimate details if you have stuffed up badly in the past or crossed the line in your relationship and your partner does not know you have to ask yourself will 100% honesty help build our relationship or just make me feel better. If the later read the section on selfishness.

I heard a pastor say once of you have a Rolls Royce in garage why would you take a Ferrari for spin if it meant losing the Rolls Royce. OK spouses are not cars but the same view holds true why would you risk and most likely lose years of pleasure and happiness for a few minutes of gratification.

Unfaithfulness destroys trust and can cause the marriage to collapse, when trust goes out the window, Complete Honesty no longer exists even if confessed, respect is violated and the spouse no longer feels safe in the relationship. While the marriage can sometimes be saved it will never be the same. It will always have a stain of doubts that will keep coming back to the surface.

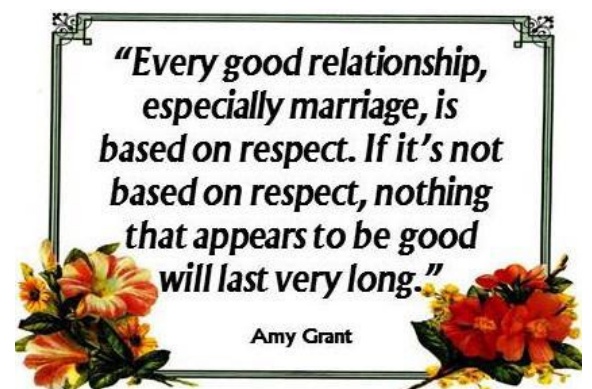
Our society fools people into thinking women can not control their emotions and men their lust and people will be unfaithful do to emotional support or the opportunity to fulfil their lust. Neither of these is the way of Christian men and women and if you love your spouse you will never let this happen.

## Respect for each other

*However, let each one of you love his spouse as himself.  
Ephesians 5:33*

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you  
abstain from sexual immorality. 1 Thessalonians 4:3*

*Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an  
understanding way, showing honour to the woman as  
the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the  
grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. 1  
Peter 3:7*



For a marriage to thrive both parties MUST give and receive respect from the other, it includes their opinions, career, interest, bodies and minds. It is said a man would prefer to be unloved rather than disrespected by his wife.

Respect requires you to take responsibility for what you do and say and how you say it this includes the tone, your body language and can not include sarcasm.

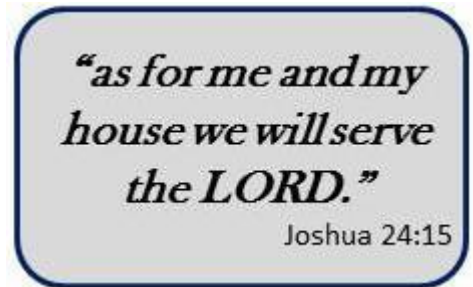
Listen when your spouse talks especially about their passions, you don't have to like everything your spouse likes but showing interest goes a long way in showing respect for them as a person.

## Spirituality

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14*

*But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:8*



Humans are made up of three parts mindspirit and body a thriving marriage requires all three come into alignment. The more of these three areas complement before marriage the better however they can move closer together after marriage without trying to become mirror images. If they become mirror images one of the parties has become co-dependent on the other and is no longer themselves.

When a couple first marry their spiritual walk may out of alignment this does not require who ever lead to fall back but to nurture and help your spouse grow. It also means you cannot expect your spouse to have the identical prayer patterns that you have.

A Christian should be neither conflicted in their masculinity / femininity nor ashamed of their faith and spirituality. It is up to both of the couple to constantly refine their relationship with Christ.

When it comes to a place of worship you should ensure you are on the same spiritual wavelength and you both agree on the place of worship and feel comfortable in it.

## Intimacy in marriage

*The husband should give to his spouse her conjugal rights, and likewise the spouse to her husband. For the spouse does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the spouse does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5*

*A lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Proverbs 5:19*

*And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Mark 7:20-23*

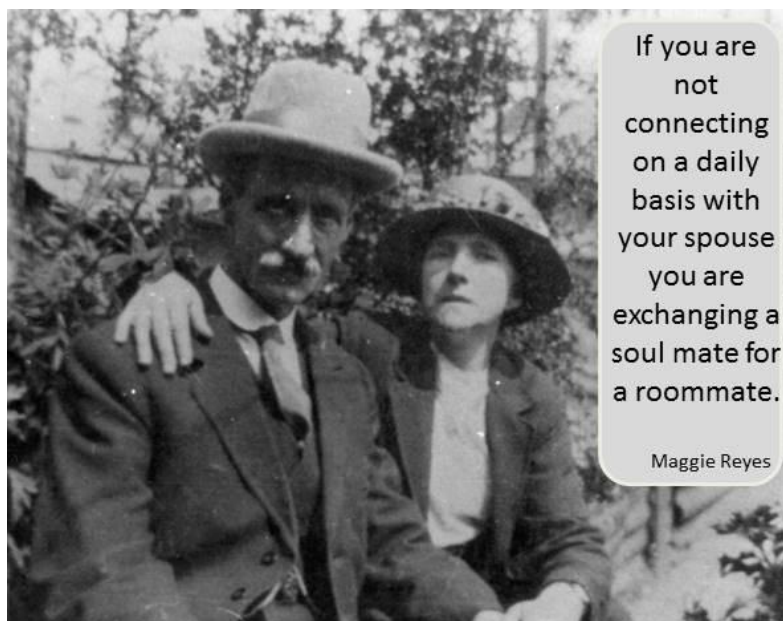
Physical intimacy is a by product of complete trust, respect and spirituality in a relationship. Marriage is more intimate than just sex. Regardless of what the world promotes men need emotional intimacy more than sex.

To be totally liberated in marriage a couple have to be able to share their deepest darkest secrets and fears. When a person divulges the cracks in their armour their self doubts, their concerns it creates a place where they can heal, however this process may take years.

When people hear the word intimacy they think sex, only within marriage can a couple be fully intertwined as the other person can see into your heart, your mind and your soul and you are wrapped in a real intimacy that comes from a commitment for life.

### **What more do woman want in a marriage**

- Some of your time, make time for us, go on a date or just listen to me!
- Make an effort, try new things with me, cook, clean or do something that makes me feel special, bring home flowers or something else that will make me smile.
- It is not about the money or the cost, \$10 of worth of flowers has the same impact as \$100.
- Don't make us ask multiple times, if we ask you to do something, please acknowledge and do it.
- You don't have to fix everything we come to you with, some times we just want some one to listen to us, if we need a solution we will ask for it.
- Work with us, most arguments happen over stupid, small stuff. Help us find a solution.
- A place to feel safe an environment of not only physical but mental safety a place where we can be ourselves.



## **What more do men want in a marriage**

There are underlying differences between males and females and I am not referring to the just the physical,

### **Approval and Praise**

Men want a wife who supports his dreams, goals and plans especially when things get tough, someone who affirms and encourages him along his journey.

He wants someone who will say “thanks”, “appreciate it” when he does the extra things you have asked him to do and especially if does them without you asking.

### **Men need space:**

Men need breathing room in a relationship time for hobbies, friends and for fulfilled time to complete projects. When men have a problem they tend to go away and ponder it on their own and then share it they want more input.

### **A Wife to be proud of**

Every man wants a wife he can be proud of a woman who resonates the beauty of kindness, compassion, humour, love, joy and gentleness.

It is crazy our society pressures women into focusing on the external when men looking for lasting relationship are more interested in the size of a woman’s heart and mind than the size of her waist.

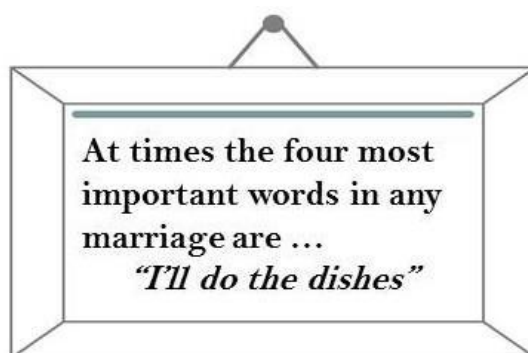
A man wants to see his wife as a success, firstly as a stand alone person who does not need him to survive but wants to be with him. A woman who is a success in her workplace be it at home or outside, successful in her studies, hobbies or career options. On the flip side guys, she will also want to be proud of you, your achievements, the way you dress the way you hold yourself up in society.

## **Marriage essential**

### **Understanding disparity in marriage!**

If you marry someone that is better educated than you, there is a real chance they will earn more than you do? You need to understand and be OK with that.

A friend of mine worked in retail, he was a hardworking man, he had a great heart, he met, fell in love and married a physiotherapist, when they married he worked a 40hr week as a manager, she worked a 20 hr week, she earned more than he did, she also took care of 90% of the household chores, they lived a fairly comfortable life, she managed to save a lot of one wage, with the aim of getting a deposit for a house together. The money was in a joint account, she trusted her husband, until he decided he wanted to keep up with a friend and bought a new car, he took the money out of the saving account without consulting her. She was understandably upset and extremely hurt; she thought they were working towards a common goal. He also decided that they had enough in savings and they bought a house together, they borrowed heavily to buy the house and when his job was cut to just 20 hours a week, they could not afford the loan repayments



and household bills, so she gave up a job she loved to take a better paying job, she started working a 40 plus hour week, while she was still doing 90% of the household chores, she started to resent her husband, on his days at home he would play games and have people over. She started to listen to her family and friends, they had always said she could do better and after just 2 years of marriage they separated with a huge debt and feeling very disillusioned.

This is not the fate of all marriages but it has to be a choice on behalf of both partners to accept their partner for who they are and their career is a part of that. I have another friend, she was an Auslan teacher, she is very smart, she has two degrees and is working on a masters, she married a mechanic, they are as much in love now as they were when they first married, after fifteen years and five children, they are happy together, she works two days a week, he works six but they chose to stay together, even when it got tough, while I have been thinking about this subject I have been asking my friends about marriage and she had an interesting take on it, she said simply that so many people said it was doomed that they pushed through the tough times to prove them wrong. She believes that her husband came into her life as a gift from God, she had dated a few men from university and none of them made her feel as special as the mechanic that lived next door. She doubted it but he was persistent and he has made her feel special ever since. To her the most important thing is that he loves her, she doesn't care that she earns more or that she has a good education, the fact that he holds the door, holds her hand and no matter what he kisses her good night and good morning!

## Forgiveness

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23*

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

**"If I get married,  
I want to be very  
married."**

*Audrey Hepburn*



We all stuff up at some time, it may be just not thinking, it may be selfishness it may be a lack of understanding but we all stuff up. As a Christian we have been forgiven much by the grace of God and in the same way we should forgive others.

I know in marriage because the person is close the hurt can seem to be deeper however holding a resentment for mistakes or misunderstandings will cause you more grief in the long term – so forgive for two reasons, one it is the right thing to do and secondary because when we forgive we can get on with our lives and become who we can become. Both parties in the relationship need to be able to forgive each other as required, it can never be a one way street.

## Areas that can poison a marriage

While we can bring past into a marriage and we need to ensure it does not poison the marriage, the transition from single to married is a huge step as you move from me to we. Things that are ok for a single are no longer ok for a married person.

## Money and things:

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, Hebrews 13:5*

*For the love of money (and things it buys) is a root of all kinds of evils. 1 Timothy 6:10*

*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money (or things it buys), nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. Ecclesiastes 5:10*

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. Matthew 6:24*

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21*

Arguing, raising your voice over money and things is one of the number one cause of marriage failure. To stop this happening you need to decide the cause which is normally only one of the following two things either selfishness or fear.

If you doubt dominating pushing money as an issue is important in a marriage– ask yourself if it builds or destroys bridges between you and your spouse and does it improve honesty a key factor in marriage or lead to dishonesty

I am not saying your spouse is your master, but if you put money and things ahead of your spouse you will end up resenting them and you will slowly withdraw your heart with the resultant damage to your marriage.

## Being selfish

*Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:25 & 28*

*Love does not insist on its own way. 1 Corinthians 13:5*

Everyone can be selfish at times unfortunately marriage reveals selfishness and if not stopped marriage can cultivate it, selfishness can range from any of the things in the following signs of being self centred to silly moments like choosing who gets the remote or the larger desert,

As a single person we can get away with being self centred as a married couple it is a quick way to poison your relationship.

## Signs of being self centred:

Not sharing household duties if your spouse works

With finance what I spend is Ok but every dollar you spend must be accounted for

Not picking up or cleaning up after yourself – leaving dirty or wet clothes lying around and not putting them where they should go.

Not offering and making food or a drink for your spouse when you make your own





Buying food or drink that you will not share with your spouse

Expecting special meals to be made for you, unless you have a medical condition

Not going the extra mile for your spouse

Hogging the wardrobe or cupboard space

When you become a Christian you are called to put away self and follow Christ, when you get married you have to put away selfishness. The single life and the married life are like chalk and cheese and the engagement period is not only about planning the wedding, for a man it should be the transition period. However if it was not long enough or you need more time the good news is you can still start afresh to today for most of us men the change from self centred to marriage centric can take a few years especially for the older men.

## **Fear**

*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.2 Timothy 1:7*

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.Isaiah 41:10*

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.1 John 4:18*

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.Psalm 34:4*

*The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.Proverbs 29:25*

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.Psalm 56:3-4*

Fear can be a major driving force good and evil. Fear of not having enough money or things is from a lack of belief that God can supply all your needs

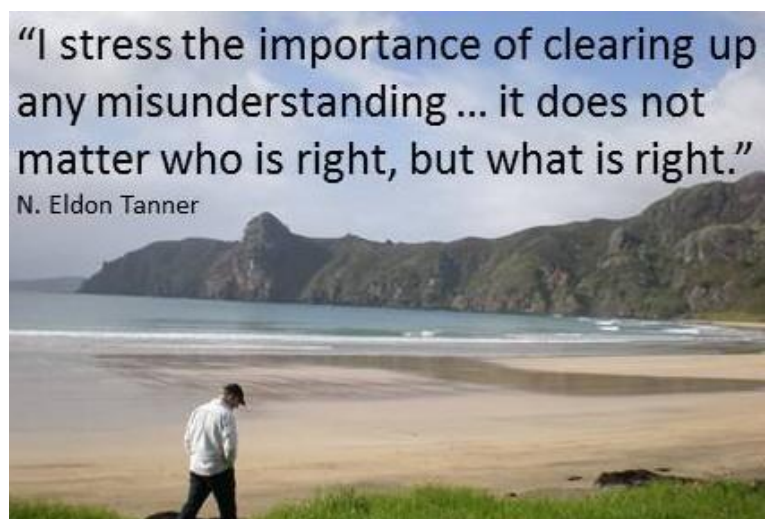
While we have to use what we have wisely and our talents well we need to put our faith and trust in God for our finances as we do this it releases us to enjoy life as a couple.

## **Bad Communication**

*Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:18-19*

*it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person Matthew 15:11*

*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger Proverbs 15:1*



Proverbs 15:1 applies to both spouses, if you yell or nag expecting to get what you want all you do is build barriers to trust, it is hard to have an honest conversation when you are yelling

and even if you are repeating the truth over and over the other person will most likely have stopped listening. Communication regardless of the issue is best done calmly and with time to think what you want to say.

You may be thinking I don't yell or nag my spouse so we have good communication. How people communicate varies hugely between people, even within a family how you communicate can vary hugely.

It is important to learn how your partner communicates and work out how that works for you. There are a huge number of books on the subjects but it can also be figured out with trial and error, some people are visual, so if they see something they remember it, this could be a note/message/email, others are more verbal, so simply asking is all you need to do. It is important to also be aware of non-verbal communication for example if your partner is withdrawn it could be they need some time and space or it could be they are upset, it is important to learn the difference. It is also important to discuss what with your partner how you communicate and what works for you.

## **Bad Habits**

*They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. 2 Peter 2:19*

*All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12*

**You can not have a  
maximum marriage  
with a  
minimum effort.**

Habits are just things we do on a regular basis, most of which can be positive however a number will also be negative and unsuitable in a marriage relationship. Bad habits are things that may have originally brought us some pleasure or stress relief but now enslave us.

Habits that do not fit within marriage can range from minor things nose picking, leaving toilet seats up to habits that you may need help breaking which may include areas as pornography, smoking, hoarding and being self centred. Habits are maintained by laziness, stress relief or fear

Our habits are often picked up by our watching our parents, in most cases we need to remember our parents did the best they could do with the knowledge they had. Habits of a lifetime do not stop the moment you walk down the aisle if damaging to the relationship they need to stop – lay down your life. Bad habits will damage your relationship in both the short term and long term.

## **Pornography and masturbation**

*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28*

*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7*

*put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness Ephesians 4:22-24*

Two areas society promotes but poison to a marriage relationship, both these areas are driven by selfishness the desire to pleasure yourself instead of your spouse. Pornography is an industry driven by profits and destroying the people caught within it. It creates unreal expectations of sexual relationships and damages those who watch by creating self doubts and expectations of unfaithfulness. Masturbation is a lack of self control and in most cases involves lust about a third party. It is not a real situation and makes the body unprepared for physical intimacy. If you are into sport or music you would understand there is a big difference between a solo and duo, for guys if you understand golf. It is like regularly taking “happy Gilmore” shots then wondering why you get serious your drive has gone all wrong.

### **Being a mummy’s boy or girl**

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his spouse. Genesis 2:24*

It is not normal for a married person to talk to their parents three or more times a day and run home to them if they do not get their own way

Mums can spoil their sons, picking up after them, waiting on them hand on foot. Your spouse is not your mum and if you treat her like your mum you can forget the physical relationship side of marriage.

### **Opposite sex friends**

Your spouse will have opposite sex friends, they may also have ex-spouse, partners etc., don’t be defensive about this, remember they chose you, do not let jealousy rear its ugly head and damage what you have.

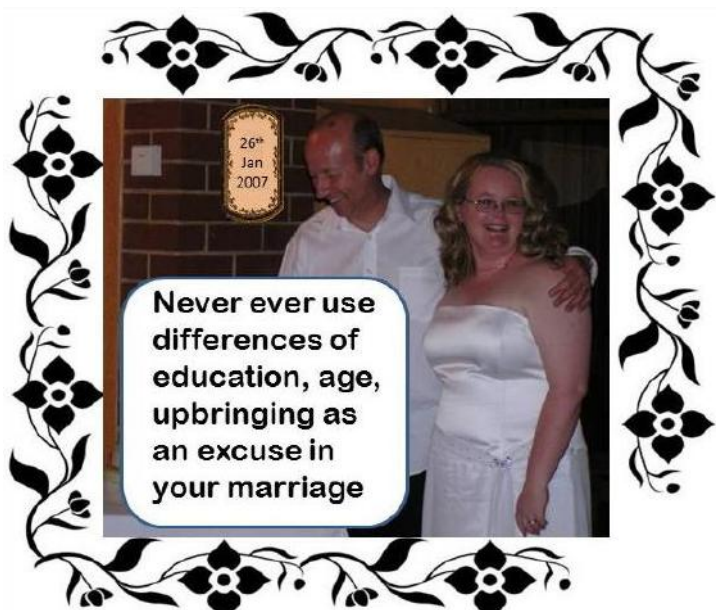
However if you have opposite sex friends it is important you never become their one on one personal confidant were you both to share your emotional feelings as this can create an emotional bond that can lead things off track. If they have problems get external help or if you feel you need to be involved, get someone else involved and never do it alone.

### **Not coping with your differences**

The reasons you were drawn to your spouse was the similarities but also differences between you, however not coping with the differences can also poison your marriage.

#### **Education**

Women in general have a larger vocabulary than men however if your spouse regularly uses words that you do not understand or are long sounding most likely it is just part of your spouse and, rarely used to put you down. This is important because the person



with the smaller word range must accept the word range their spouse as part of who they are and not use higher or lower education as an excuse.

### **Career**

Both of you need to respect the career the other has chosen or been called to and support them, even if it means they earn less or more than you.

### **Race and social class**

Both parties need to accept that some of their family and friends may not be as accepting of their spouse as they would like and may be prejudiced, this becomes more difficult if the other party is family. The important thing is you have made a decision to be part of the marriage and so the spouse takes priority over your family and friends.

Both parties need to become aware of the others social and cultural differences and accept and act appropriately as the circumstances require. Both parties must ensure they never use the race or social card in an argument or to get what they want.

## **Marriage secrets for women only**

### **Hormones**

Men, well most men, have no idea how awful hormones can be, especially if we mess with them but even if we don't we all sometimes get the feeling that all men are the devil and they must be banished. It is really important in this situation to express calmly that you are not feeling good and that you need space, try to do this in a calm non confrontational way, if he is not getting the message you may need to remove yourself, go for a walk or a drive!

### **What is he thinking?**

Sometimes when a man is staring into space and you ask "what are you thinking?" and he replies "nothing" there is a very high probability he is telling the truth

Men are lousy mind readers, if you are angry or annoyed with him, tell him if you give him the silent treatment he may never notice. If you want a special present let him know, if he feels he needs to select the gift give him a few alternatives.

### **Advice for women**

- He can't read your mind! You need to tell him, if you want/need something or if he has done something wrong!
- Don't try to change him, you can train him to do the things you want him to but be careful or he could become a completely different person.
- Be realistic! You can't have everything you want when you want it.
- Appreciate him, let him know how much you love and appreciate the things he does.
- Encourage him to grow and learn.
- Go to him with good news first, he should be the first to hear.
- Try to see the positive in everything, no one likes it when you're negative or whiny.
- The silent treatment does not work! He has no idea and is often oblivious anyway.

- Nagging, does not work either, find how he communicates best and use that. For example if your husband is visual you might be better leaving a note or sending an email.
- Don't become his mother, he may act like a little boy and you should let him have his little boy moments but if you mother him it will change your relationship, you are his wife not his mother and you may need to set some rules around that.

## Marriage secrets for men only

*An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. Proverbs 31:10*

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from the Lord. Proverbs 18:22*

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34*

*Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21*

Interesting enough the Bible does not say it is a good thing for a woman to find a husband but for a man to find a spouse. If you want a happy successful marriage you have to accept your spouse is more precious than things your real estate, investments, shares, cars, computers, software, games, man toys, books, money and because you have made a commitment to her spouse becomes more important than your existing family and friends.

*But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a spouse is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3*

1 Corinthians 11:3 has to be one of the most misused verses in the Bible with husbands declaring themselves head of the wife and based on this verse deciding they can be selfish and insist on their own way. God never insisted on Christ doing anything, what Christ did he did out of love for the Father. Christ does not insist on man doing anything and gave us free will, we follow Christ out of love not command in the same way a wife follows her husband out of love not out of command.



*The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. Proverbs 31:11-31*

The scripture supports a wife who uses her talents and gifts in business or her career to support and bless the family as a man we need to respect her and support her in her decisions in her career, education and purchases.

Make time each day yes everyday to listen to your wife, it may be over meals or it may require a special time each day. In my relationship our listen time is when wife gets home from work

we sit down for coffee and we talk about our day and anything else we want to cover. It means listening without judging the tricky bit can be when she shares a problem because most of the time woman just want to share their problems, they do not want us to advise or suggest a solution unless they ask us for help. You may not always understand her reasoning, but you have agreed to love her and make her feel worth loving regardless if your views are different.

For men we need to be real and share not only our strengths but also our weaknesses, struggles, our hopes, dreams and fears and in your wife you will find someone who can help you grow and you move towards your dreams. While on the topic of intimacy women enjoy sex as much as guys but foreplay is more important to them, so remember to cuddle, massage, have fun and you will not regret it.

For a marriage to be successful you have to man up and take responsibility for your own life as well as your family.

### **Women and hormones**

At certain times they will feel everything from bloated and sore, to massive headaches and something similar to getting the flu, their breasts hurt, their back hurts and the last thing they want it us not helping. This is our opportunity to shine, if they are feeling like crap, give them space, let them sleep in and recharge. Make dinner, even if it is take-out or if you have kids, take them out for a bit. If they have had a big week, does it really matter if they miss church or a friend's BBQ? Leave them to be and go on your own!

### **Marriage practicalities**

*Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14*

### **Romance.**

Set aside one night a week as a date night, you may go out to dinner or the movies like before you got married but it may just be window shopping, a walk on the beach just time for the two of you.

With flowers you do not have to impress her with a one hundred dollar bunch delivered to the office a ten to twenty dollar bunch at a random times has more meaning

### **Working Spouse**

In this day and age more and more spouses work and if required more men stay home to raise the family and look after the home, these are things couple must decide based on their passions, education, career options and income. These choices also need to consider which spouse will earn more now and in the future and can not be clouded by the pride of the lower earning spouse.



With both spouses working it is important to share the home front, more important than wine and roses is getting dinner started, throwing a load in the washing machine or your spouse getting home to clean house you can not just collapse on the lounge and expect your spouse to prepare dinner every night

## **Food**

If you are the spouse who does not prepare most meals, the least you can do is help in the kitchen and from time to time surprise your spouse with a meal. The only excuse for not cooking from time to time is you are too lazy to learn or too lazy to build a great marriage.

Simple meal options that any one can do:

**No cook dinner:** From the supermarket, buy a whole roast cooked Chicken and Salad in a bag and add a few tomatoes.

**Super easy:** All you require is from the supermarket freezer section, a packet of chicken tenderloins and a bag of frozen wedges or chips, then at home, baking tray, baking paper to line the tray, empty the bag and box onto the trays and into the oven at 180 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

If you want to upgrade it simple replace the chicken tenderloins, with prepared Chicken Minions (if you like bacon) or Chicken Kiev (if you like garlic) available from the butcher but also in some supermarkets, same cooking process but suitable for guests or a special evening at home. To go the next steps just add a quick salad of lettuce and tomato.

**Easy:** Whole raw chicken put in an oven proof bag and cook for 60 minutes per kilogram at 180 degrees, about 40 minutes before it is due to be ready add some peeled vegetables to another tray in the oven.

**No excuse:** Throw a couple of steaks on the BBQ and make a quick salad.

When you realise how easy it can be to create a quick delicious meal you can google “simple meals for men”.

Unless you are allergic to a particular food or additive, you are now an adult and should eat whatever your spouse prepares. A burnt or not so tasty meal still tastes sweet with the person made it with love.

## **Cleaning and Gardening**

Regardless of your spouse works or not it is your home and both of you are responsible for maintaining it. It may not be 50/50 but help and sharing reduces the burden and makes for a happier home life.

## **Finance**

Who looks after the cash will depend entirely on your own abilities and personalities. If one party is a miser or a total spender they will need to balance out their past spending habits with what is best for the marriage unit. The ability to waste \$50 to \$100 at the pub, lunches, toy or book store each week will most likely be a thing of your single days.

As a couple you need to discuss your future goals , holidays, investments, retirement, replacement cars, future home and work out a budget and set a budget that you are both happy with.

## Personal space

No two people are the same, it is important to understand this concept, it is also important to value and support your partner, if you don't and you try to mirror each other, one of you will be lost and that is never a good thing. You are both individuals with skills and talents, hopefully you have some common interests but you will also have things you do with your family and friends. It is important to keep doing the things that set you apart, sure occasionally your partner can tag along but remember to make time to spend with your friend and allow your partner the same freedom. Personal space includes personal time and physical space.

Thought from Cassandra "for us it is music, we both love music but I love opera and art, my husband is not that into either but he will take me to the art gallery, he comes along to support me, he may not have the same passion or understanding but that's fine, he doesn't have to and I don't degrade him if he expresses a different opinion about it."

We all need our own physical space at times and it may be the garage, study or workroom. If your home is big enough to have your own space and you can close the door to it, then whose space it is can decorate it anyway they feel comfortable.

You must remember that you are two individual adult people, you don't magically change when you say "I do", you are still you, you might have different life journeys and that is what makes you, who you are. It is important to keep doing the things that make you happy, to maintain your hobbies or sports, to keep seeing your friends and going out on your own, you need to be who you are and respect who your partner is, if he wants to go out with friends, that's fine, respect and trust works both ways and it is important to remember that.

## Birth Control and Raising Children

These two topics are separate books in their own right but these two topics still require shared responsibility and shared decisions.

## Choosing a Spiritual Home

*Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one spouse, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. 1 Timothy 3:2*

*Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship, and don't stop preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 4:13*

We all need a spiritual home and as a couple need to find a spiritual home where they both feel comfortable or at least know that is where God wants them for a season. If you both have not been attending a church together before marriage or you move after marriage here are a few thoughts on the matter.

With about two thousand years of church development there are still no 100% correct churches that will meet your ever need and if a group says they are the true church and 100% right, run away from them as fast as you can.





Ignore the building as the church is the people, the size of the church does not matter only that they preach Christ and him crucified for your salvation.

A church should help you grow in your Christian walk and provide a place for Christian service within the church or community depending on your calling.

Churches should not make you feel obliged to attend, be part of their program or make you feel obliged to give to them, your attendance, service and giving must be between you and God not you and the church or group.

Ensure the church has an oversight structure and I mean an earthly oversight not a direct oversight by Christ. Why? It protects the doctrine from being swayed by the latest views or fancies.

It should have a structure and procedures for child and youth protection. If you are a church leader or church signatory outside of the established church groups any breach within your group of protection laws and this includes by a third party non Christian could bankrupt the group and you as well.

### **Friends you do not like**

If you hate your spouse's friends, it's best to tell them and offer a solution. For example saying "I hate XXX" may not yield the same response as "I don't like XXX very much, maybe you guys could go out rather than coming home or maybe you can let me know and I can go out "this gives the problem a solution

You may also lose friends when you marry, sometimes you will grow apart or you won't have the time to spend with friends or your interests will change or they simply won't like your spouses, its fine, it is their choice, don't take it personally.

### **Minor things that can become majors:**

At times you will want to do your own thing! Marriage is about two independent people forming a working relationship it is not about one person becoming co-dependant on another. You are an adult, if your partner doesn't want to see a movie, it is ok to go alone, don't feel guilty about spending time on your own likewise don't get upset when your partner does things without you. Your both adults, you can both go out with friends, pursue a hobby or sport. Don't make your partner feel guilty about "me" time, it works both ways!

If you come from different backgrounds also remember that there are going to be differences, even if you come from close backgrounds there are often differences in how things are done, stay open to change but stand your ground on things that are really important to you, it is about compromise not surrender. My husband and I are pretty much on the same page about things but early on in our marriage we recognised that there are some habits that you cannot change, my husband squeezes the toothpaste in the middle, it drove me nuts, yes it is only a little tiny thing but it was a thing, we however come up with a simple solution.....his and hers toothpaste!

As a guy the old battle toilet seats up or down, we ended up with down for looks and hygiene but I did spend about forty dollars per seat to change them to soft closing so you just push the lid over and it closes itself.

Little tiny things can fester and become big ugly things, it is important to keep things in perspective but it is also important to look for amiable solutions that you can both live with. I have a friend whose well-meaning husband would do the laundry when he got home from work, she didn't mind that, but the way he hung things on the line, made her mental, she would go out and follow him along re-pegging the clothes, she never explained that she had a

way she liked to hang her clothes, and in the end he stopped bothering, she thought that he didn't care and she started to resent doing the laundry on her own. This festered into a huge argument about him not helping in the house, he pointed out that nothing he did was good enough for her, so why bother; this situation could have been far less stressful for both of them with a little communication.

Most minor things can be sorted with calm communication and understanding, I like working with my hands and as a result of my time in the army reserve I normally only wear my wedding ring if going out or if someone is visiting us. Most military, electricians and a high number of other tradespeople do not wear wedding rings on their finger at work as it increases the risk of serious injury and with electricians death. Cassandra understands this is my personal choice and she has no concerns because our love and my fidelity are a ring around my heart and not a ring that can be slipped on or off.

## **Conclusion**

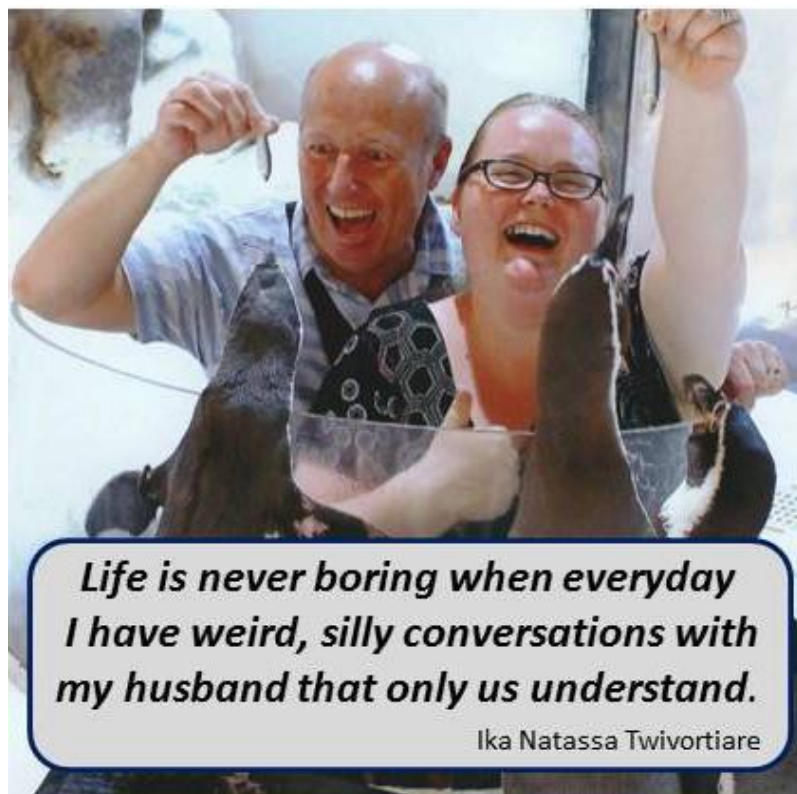
It does not matter if you have stuffed up on any of the points above you can always discuss them and if necessary ask for forgiveness then get on and fix them. At this point we would recommend you and your spouse take the quizzes on the following pages there are two copies so you can do your own. There are no right answers and you can even choose on the line between two options if you like. The important thing is that after you have both done a quiz you discuss your answers especially any you differ on.

Remember what it is you love about your spouse?

Ask yourself, If I could change one thing what would it be?

If lots of things need to change, start with one and decide what steps you are going to put in place to achieve this change.

***May God bless you as you build your lives together.***



## Quiz A: Why did you get married?

This quiz is repeated over the page for your spouse.

Why did you want to get married?

What did you hope to achieve from this relationship?

The purpose of this quiz is to give you a talking point as it will give you both a better idea of what you hope to get out of your marriage there are no wrong or right answers.

Rank the reason you got married from 1 to 3 in order of importance to you.

<b>Why did you get married?</b>	<b>Number in your priority from 1 to 3</b>
For financial security	
In response to family pressure	
To declare publicly your commitment to each other	
To make your relationship legal	
To provide security for existing or future children	
To signify a life-long commitment to each other	
Your desire for a special occasion	
Your friends are all married	
Your love for your person you married	
Your need for companionship	
Your religious beliefs	

## Quiz A: Why did you get married? (Copy)

This quiz is a repeat from the previous page

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Your friends are all married	
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Your need for companionship	
Your religious beliefs	

## Quiz B: Important issues to discuss

This quiz is repeated over the page for your spouse.

Rate each of the topics with a tick or cross in one of five options, which range from, Not important to Not Negotiable.

After you have both done the question discuss them with your spouse your answers especially any you differ on.

<b>How important are these issues to you?</b>	Not important	Sort of important	They are important	Very important	Non - negotiable
Being able to forgive					
Being trusted					
Commitment to the long term					
Communication - honest and open					
Communication - time to talk					
Faithfulness - fidelity					
Honesty					
Intimacy emotional					
Intimacy physical					
Respect for each other					
Spiritual - your faith					
Spiritual - choosing the church you attend					
Being an equal partner in the relationship					
Being the main income earner					
Financial everything in common					
Financial security					
Having children regardless if yes or no					
You being head of the house					
You changing your habits					
Your spouse changing their habits					
From spouse - supporting your career					
From spouse - supporting your studies					
Your doing your own thing when you want to					
Your need for your own physical space					
Your need for your own time					
Selecting your homes interior					

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Communication - time to talk					
Faithfulness - fidelity					
Honesty					
Intimacy emotional					
Intimacy physical					
Respect for each other					
Spiritual - your faith					
Spiritual - choosing the church you attend					
Being an equal partner in the relationship					
Being the main income earner					
Financial everything in common					
Financial security					
Having children regardless if yes or no					
You being head of the house					
You changing your habits					
Your spouse changing their habits					
From spouse - supporting your career					
From spouse - supporting your studies					
Your doing your own thing when you want to					
Your need for your own physical space					
Your need for your own time					
Selecting your homes interior					

## Quiz C: More marriage essentials

This quiz is repeated over the page for your spouse.

Rate each of the topics with a tick or cross in one of five options, which range from, Not important to Not Negotiable.

After you have both done the question discuss them with your spouse your answers especially any you differ on.

<b>How important are these issues to you?</b>	Not important	Sort of important	They are important	Very important	Non - negotiable
Having a family budget					
Being a mummy's boy or girl					
Selecting your house together					
Selecting your homes interior décor					
Having your own study or work space					
Receiving thanks you from your spouse					
Having opposite sex friends					
Having personal boundaries					
Romance in your marriage					
The types of food you eat					
Toilet seat being left up - down					
Having a pet					
Choice of pet - dog , cat or other					
Keeping the things you brought into the marriage					
Having a tidy home					
Tidying up after things yourself					
Picking up your clothes after yourself					
You changing your habits					

## Quiz C: More marriage essentials(copy)

This quiz is a repeat from the previous page

Rate each of the topics with a tick or cross in one of five options, which range from, Not important to Not Negotiable.

After you have both done the question discuss them with your spouse your answers especially any you differ on.

<b>How important are these issues to you?</b>	Not important	Sort of important	They are important	Very important	Non - negotiable
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Being a mummy's boy or girl					
Selecting your house together					
Selecting your homes interior décor					
Having your own study or work space					
Receiving thanks you from your spouse					
Having opposite sex friends					
Having personal boundaries					
Romance in your marriage					
The types of food you eat					
Toilet seat being left up - down					
Having a pet					
Choice of pet - dog , cat or other					
Keeping the things you brought into the marriage					
Having a tidy home					
Tidying up after things yourself					
Picking up your clothes after yourself					
You changing your habits					



## Quiz D: Marriage practicalities

This quiz is repeated on the following page for your spouse

Tick who you think should be responsible for the following areas then tick how important you think it is that that person/s takes responsibility in the areas. Then rank your answer from not important to very important.

There are no wrong answers as they all depend on your personal situation and preferences.

After you have both done the question discuss them with your spouse your answers especially any you differ on.

	Who should be responsible?			How important to you is who has the responsibility?				
	Him	Share	Her	Not important	Sort of important	Do not care	Is important	Very important
Making the main meal e.g. dinner								
Making meals for work e.g. work lunch								
Doing the grocery shopping								
Doing the dishes								
Cleaning the house								
Doing the laundry								
Doing the ironing								
Doing the gardening								
House maintenance								
Responsible for birth control								
Responsible for family budget								
Responsible for paying the bills								
Organising family events - e.g. Birthdays								
Organising seasonal events - e.g. Christmas								
Organising booking arranging holidays								
Deciding where to go on holidays								

## Quiz D: Marriage practicalities (copy)

This quiz is a repeat from the previous page

Tick who you think should be responsible for the following areas then tick how important you think it is that that person/s takes responsibility in the areas. Then rank your answer from not important to very important.

There are no wrong answers as they all depend on your personal situation and preferences.

After you have both done the question discuss them with your spouse your answers especially any you differ on.

	Who should be responsible?			How important to you is who has the responsibility?				
	Him	Share	Her	Not important	Sort of important	Do not care	Is important	Very important
Making the main meal e.g. dinner								
Making meals for work e.g. work lunch								
Doing the grocery shopping								
Doing the dishes								
Cleaning the house								
Doing the laundry								
Doing the ironing								
Doing the gardening								
House maintenance								
Responsible for birth control								
Responsible for family budget								
Responsible for paying the bills								
Organising family events - e.g. Birthdays								
Organising seasonal events - e.g. Christmas								
Organising booking arranging holidays								
Deciding where to go on holidays								

## Quiz E:Your priorities

This quiz is a repeat over the page for your spouse

The purpose of this quiz is to give you a talking point as it will give you both a better idea of what you your priorities at this stage in your relationship, they will change over time and may even be skewed for a season e.g. health issues, new born children or seriously ill family.

“While in theory from day one of our marriage Cassandra should have ranked above my children, the truth is it took years before the ranking changed and I can not say when it did just that in hindsight it has.” David

Rank your priorities from 1 to 5 in order if importance to you at the moment.

<b>What priority do the following have in your life?</b>	<b>Number in your priority from 1 to 5</b>
God - your faith	
Money	
Your Children	
Your friends	
Your Job	
Your relatives	
Your spouse	
Your spouses - family	
Your spouses - friends	
Your Spouses children (if applicable)	
Your things	
Your work colleagues	

## Quiz E: Your priorities (copy)

This quiz is a repeat from the previous page

The purpose of this quiz is to give you a talking point as it will give you both a better idea of what your priorities are at this stage in your relationship, they will change over time and may even be skewed for a season e.g. health issues, new born children or seriously ill family.

“While in theory from day one of our marriage Cassandra should have ranked above my children, the truth is it took years before the ranking changed and I can not say when it did just that in hindsight it has.” David

Rank your priorities from 1 to 5 in order of importance to you at the moment.

<b>What priority do the following have in your life?</b>	<b>Number in your priority from 1 to 5</b>
God - your faith	
Money	
Your Children	
Your friends	
Your Job	
Your relatives	
Your spouse	
Your spouses - family	
Your spouses - friends	
Your Spouses children (if applicable)	
Your things	
Your work colleagues	



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